

The Times-Dispatch

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TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 13, 1910.

THE REDEMPTION OF MAINE.

Maine is one of the best signs of the times. Yesterday it "went hell bent" for Governor Plaisted, and the Republicans will make all sorts of explanations of how it happened and what it means. It is the first time Maine has "gone Democratic" since 1872, until the country had reached the conclusion that this particular Ephraim was joined to his idols and was really not worth fighting for. The Democrats of such rock-ribbed States as Maine and Vermont, however, are of a different breed from the Democrats of many of the "certain States," and never give up the ship. The new Governor is the son of his father, the last Democratic Governor of the State. He has twice been Mayor of the strongly Republican city of Augusta, and once sheriff of the equally strong Republican county of Kennebec. He is said to be a man of charming manners, high social position, strong character, a master Mason and a good, all-round, vote-winning, clear-thinking, straight-acting Democrat; just the sort of Democrat we should say, who would make a good second on the Democratic National ticket in 1912.

This is a Democratic year. As goes Maine, so will go the rest of the country. Mr. Taft must rejoice in the prospect of having a Congress that will really help him to revise the tariff downward in spots, or altogether, as he prefers. Now, if the Democrats will only keep their heads level, there will not be any more Republican Presidents for a good many years to come.

THE SILENCE OF PARSONS.

One of our contemporaries, the *Henry Bulletin*, we believe, is anxious that the Hon. John Mae Parsons, Republican candidate for Congress in the Fifth District, should make some speeches and further reveal his plans to provide individual penitentiaries and scaffolds for those who see fit to support him and afterward indulge in crime. The Great Handshaker and Back-Patter has been very silent in this campaign, and there is no sign that he will open his lips.

The fact of the matter is, Mr. Parsons has very little to talk about that can be uttered from the hustings. The only argument which he can concoct is that he was deprived of a seat in Congress; and he is afraid to do more than whisper this around, for he knows that some Democrat in the assembly is likely to pull out the facts in the case and nail him on the spot. The people in the Fifth who have investigated the contested election in Congress between Saunders and Parsons know that the committee having the matter in charge were afraid to bring a report into Congress favoring Parsons, for they knew that the law and precedents were solidly against the contentions of Parsons.

Then, too, the Hon. Mr. Parsons wishes to "rum-shoe" around on the question of Canonism; for Parsons and Slem are political twin brothers, both committed to the support of the Speaker and the pernicious doctrines for which he stands. Canonism is the issue that is sounding the knell of many a Canon Congressman, and Parsons is "afraid" to say anything about Canon. The Canon wing of the Republican party is supplying some campaign funds to Parsons, we are told, and yet he has not as much courage as the ordinary feeder from the hand of the machine who cries, "Whose bread I eat, his song I sing."

A third reason for the sepulchral silence of the Great Pawhandler is that he has no record to talk about. He has done nothing and he knows it. He was a member of the Senate in the last General Assembly, but he was in Washington so much that he did nothing for his people. He introduced a great many bills—all appealing to prejudice and all well suited for campaign hot air—but that he did any real work is a proposition that is absurd.

On the other hand, he is keenly aware of the splendid record of Representative Saunders. For many years, Mr. Saunders has been an able and efficient public servant, always adorning whatever position he filled, always bringing to his public task the utmost patriotism, fairness and statesmanship. His record in the General Assembly was fine; his record in Congress has been second to none. Representative Saunders is yet young in the National House, but he is already a real leader, a man whose record is proudly pointed to by Virginians.

We have no doubt that in the peaceful shades of Grayson, the Hon. John Mae Parsons thought over all these things, while he was devising improved methods in handshaking and back-patting. He is the sort who can glide around in the crowd and "get next to the boys," but as for the stump, no, no, for the Hon. John Mae prefers the private conference in subdued tones where promises can be made and all sorts of positions be taken. He does not court

the open air and the bright sunlight; but rather the sequestered vale, where the Democrat with the public document invadeth not, for what the Hon. John Mae says during the campaign must not be told in Gath nor published in the streets of Ashkelon. Silence is indeed golden to him.

The muffled drum is beating, though, and there will be a funeral silence in the house of Parsons in November.

THE WORLD ON ITS KNEES.

It looked in Montreal on Sunday as if the words of prophecy had indeed been fulfilled, that "unto me every knee shall bow, every tongue shall swear," when five hundred thousand men, women and children, a multitude, in fact, which no man could number, bowed down before the cross of Christ. It was a magnificent spectacle, seldom witnessed anywhere in the world, and never seen before in this New World in which the practical has too often shut out the spiritual; a spectacle in which all Christian believers, whether acknowledging allegiance to the Catholic Church or not, might well rejoice, for we are all going the same way and trusting only in the mercy of God for deliverance.

It was the concluding service of the great Eucharistic Congress which brought together in the Canadian city a great company of the highest dignitaries and the humblest priests of the Roman Catholic Church, and with pomp and circumstance and music and sacrifice, the sons of God went forth to war, not with swords and spears and charging squadrons and blood and thunder, but in the temper of the Prince of Peace on earth to men of good will. Two hundred thousand people from all the provinces and from the States poured into Montreal, men of all nations and kindred and tribes and tongues, from faraway country places, from the crowded haunts of men, and with one accord in the spirit of true devotion they fell upon their knees in adoration; in Montreal one of the cities of the Protestant King of Great Britain and under his protection to worship God according to the dictates of their own conscience. It was magnificent and it was religious!

One of the features of the day was the sermon of Cardinal Gibbons, which was altogether worthy of him and the occasion, and the prayer with which he closed might well be uttered by all who "follow in His train": "Grant, O Lord, that when types and figures shall have passed away, and when faith shall be absorbed in the beatific vision we may see Thee face to face in Thy everlasting glory." This vision has already come to millions who have gone on into the higher life, and it will come to millions more. This life is but the beginning of life; either that, or it is not worth living.

"MARSE HENRY" AT IT AGAIN.

Henry Watterson is very indignant at the treatment of Miss Katherine by the American newspapers, and declares that "this wanton invasion of an American home, with its wicked and cowardly misusage of an American girl, should mark the beginning of some serious effort to draw the line between what is true and what is false." Fine, Mr. Watterson, fine! It is the same thing we have been telling you all along. It is a disgrace to journalism that there is no circle so private that it does not enter, no sentiment so sacred that it does not violate; but, Mr. Watterson, the abuse of which you speak is not the only sin that can be charged to the account of the Press, and if you will only think about it a minute you have occasionally led the pack.

There is Ballinger, for instance. Without knowing anything about him and his work, and without being appointed by anybody to sit in judgment on him, you have pursued him with a ferocity that has known no limit. You will say, probably, that the two cases do not stand on the same footing; that the invasion of the young woman's home is wanton, and the pursuit of Ballinger a public service; but while any invasion of the American home is wanton, is it not true that any persecution of an American in public office is brutal? We do not care anything for Ballinger, never saw him, don't care to see him, wouldn't have anything to do with him if we knew him; but we might be charged by the *Courier-Journal* with trying to work a hand deal or a water-proof conspiracy through him; but, away out in Washington State, Ballinger probably has some folks in his family who have abundant cause to complain of the "wicked and cowardly misusage" of an American man.

The newspapers think they have to "give the news," of course, and they are always on the lookout for something, "features" they call them, out of which to make scare-heads and please the mob; but the "news" is one thing and editorial opinion is another. Following your wise counsel, Mr. Watterson, we have been plugging along generally on the theory that the newspaper editor should be a judge and not an advocate or a Commonwealth's attorney. Why don't you keep within your own lines of journalistic conduct so that the rest of us who follow you and look up to you and love you can say, by way of defence, why Watterson told us that was the right thing to do, and what Watterson says goes?

EXTENDING WOMAN'S RIGHTS.

President Ella Flagg Young of the National Educational Association and Incidentally Superintendent of the Chicago Public Schools, has introduced a new course in the schools, a course which should be generally adopted by the public schools throughout the country. It is called the Sanitary Science Course, the main purpose of it being to teach all school girls the rudiments of plumbing. Pupils will be required to master such details as how the water and gas are distributed through mains to houses, then to kitchens, how connections are made and similar

things. It is said by the New York Tribune that "with a proper understanding of these matters, together with a knowledge of how the waste water is carried away, it is thought the students will be better equipped to keep the kitchens over which they may rule in the future in a more sanitary condition."

This is a long forward step in the science of education, and there is a good deal more in it than appears clearly on the surface. It means, among other things, the finish of the plumbers' trust, and more work for the willing hands of the women. Manifestly, if the women should be taught how to do scientific plumbing work, it would be a clear waste of the time and energy consumed in acquiring this art if they should not actually do the work. The men could not do it because they have not been educated up to it; but when the women learn how there is no reason, in political economy or in the rights of women, why they should not be urged to follow the trade, at least in fixing up these things about their own homes; and that would leave a good deal more for cigars and things.

BOTHER THE CONSTITUTION!

The Hartford Times does not take very kindly to the platform adopted by the Conservation Congress at St. Paul; nobody could with any regard to the rights of the States. In the opinion of our Yankee contemporary, the conservationists and the "new nationalists" are really aiming at an extensive revision of the Constitution. The old thing suits us very well; we believe that it was made for all men for all time, and it has worked wonderfully well now for a good deal more than a hundred years; but new occasions demand new adjustments, that is to say, the "progressives," alias the Mob, think so, and as there are more Mobocrats than Democrats in the country, it is the hope of the lynching party that it will be able to carry its policies through, whatever happens to the Republic.

In his speech at Pueblo, it will be recollected, the Colonel gave his ideas on constitution-making, saying that if he could make the constitutions of Arizona and New Mexico he would make them so that they could be readily changed every now and then so that they might represent the varying changes of public sentiment. We suppose he would follow the same course as to the Federal Constitution also, so that by changing it at frequent intervals it could be kept up or down with the passions of the people. We should say that we might have a new Constitution with every change of administration—a new nationalism Constitution under Roosevelt and a States' rights Constitution under Taft, and so on until, after trying them all, we could break up the present scheme of things and get along without any Constitution.

That might not be a bad idea, as there has been a desperate attempt for more than fifty years by the Republican party to prove that the present instrument is in fact "a covenant with death and an agreement with hell." If there were no Constitution, probably the best shots would win, and there are some very fine marksmen in the South.

ELECTRIC FARMS.

Electricity can be utilized to make crops grow faster, according to the New York Times. Former Judge Thomas H. Williams, of Brooklyn, has established an experimental farm at East Northport, Long Island, and is making a thorough test of electrical farming.

"The electric current is set to work to quicken the actual growth of familiar plants and vegetables. It is expected that the rate of development will be greatly increased, if not perhaps doubled, by this mysterious stimulant. The friends of the new farming look forward to a day when the crops will be greatly increased the country over by this simple expedient."

The idea originated in Germany, "where surprising results have been obtained." The electric farm is planted with iron poles, twelve feet high arranged in regular rows. The tops of the poles are connected by a series of wires running criss-cross fashion. The poles are high enough to allow workers and wagons to pass under them.

The electricity used for the farm is generated by a series of windmills. The surplus current is collected in storage batteries; this supply makes it possible to turn on a steady current of electricity at any time, regardless of the windmills. The supply of electricity is said to be inexpensive.

"The electric current may be said to drop from the wires into the ground. It will thus act directly upon the seed throughout their germination and later upon the small sprouts and vegetation. The current serves to force the sap of the plant upward. The sap is carried further and the plant is made to grow faster."

"When the current is turned on in the electric farm the invisible fluid leaps the distance from the cross wires above the poles to the earth, thus passing through the plants which are in circuit. If the current be made strong enough a long spark may be formed between the wires and the ground. In damp weather the passage of the electricity through the air often produces a glow which is visible for a considerable distance."

"The stimulating effect of the electricity is greater than that of powerful nitrates. The current acts separately, however, and may thus be used to further stimulate the action of the nitrates. If the growth of a crop, for instance, be increased 60 per cent, by using a powerful nitrates, the addition of the electrical treatment will still further increase the growth and produce remarkable results."

It may well be asked: "What are the results?" The general average indicates an increase of from 50 to 70 per cent in the size of ordinary farm crops. In seeds 10 to 20 per cent increase varies from 50 to 60 per cent. Plants have been compared while growing under natural conditions and with the electric treatment. It has

been brought to light that, after 164 hours of the electric current, tobacco plants increased 30 per cent, faster under the electric treatment, beets increased 12 per cent, faster, lima beans 11 per cent, and carrots 37 per cent, faster. Barley was found to have grown 23 per cent faster on account of the current, and potatoes 50 per cent, faster. For some unknown cause, potatoes showed a decrease of 7 per cent. The electric crop of wheat was 30 per cent, greater than the crop grown under normal conditions. "A strawberry bed which had been systematically treated by an electric current for 115 days, or for 1,014 hours, showed an increase of 35 per cent over the regular crops nearby." Good results were obtained with tomatoes and raspberries.

"The best results were noticed in the case of very young plants. The seedlings reared under the stimulating effects of the electricity were more deeply colored than in the case of ordinary plants. The stalks were found to be from 10 to 20 per cent higher."

Of course, electric farming is in its first experimental stage. Just what it may be developed into is a subject upon which the imagination may well ponder. Science is reaching out the helping hand to the farmer these days, and no one can foresee what wonderful benefit and saving of time and labor he may receive from so great a source. Scientific agencies are not only making farm life more worth while, but worth more in dollars and cents.

Will the day come when the farmer will no longer have to tell in the sweat of his brow? Will he some day simply sit on his front porch and press a button and so work his crops, instead of summoning his hands at the break of day and supervising them and working with them all day long? Who can tell in this day of wireless telegraphy and aviation? Man is marshalling the mysterious forces of nature to his aid, and wonder upon wonder may await him in the ever-brightening future.

DON'T WASTE HIM ON CONGRESS.

Samuel Bowles, the fourth of the name, it is said, will run for Congress as a Democrat in the Second Massachusetts District this year against Gillett, who now holds this seat. He is the son of the editor of the Springfield Republican and the grandson of Judge Rockwood Hoar; a very bright fellow, if the least bit eccentric, and is now connected with the Springfield Daily News, an afternoon newspaper of the penny dreadful type. He was educated at Harvard, which possibly accounts for his "advanced" ideas, and is reported to be not altogether in sympathy with the same and safe policies of his father's party. That is one of the dangers of raising up youngsters these days in the way they should go, because there is no telling where they will go, and what they will do. If we knew the young man and had any influence with him, we should urge him to quit his fooling, to go back and get a job on his father's paper and make a man of himself instead of wasting himself in Congress. This, we believe, is the advice his grandfather would give him. Besides, the Springfield Republican has broadened considerably in recent years and is still growing in the right direction.

NINETY-DAY SESSIONS.

Discussion of the four proposed amendments to the Constitution of Virginia has brought out one very pronounced fact—that of the four propositions, that which calls for a ninety-day session of the General Assembly instead of a sixty-day session, as at present, is the most unpopular. Many of our contemporaries of the State press have gone so far as to declare that the session ought to be reduced to less than sixty days. The correspondents of these papers have made their severest stabs at this proposed amendment.

Our political leaders have been quite reticent on this subject, yet one voice has been heard to which more than ordinary attention must be paid. It is that of the Hon. A. M. Bowman, chairman of the Finance Committee of the House of Delegates for ten years, and one of the ablest and most practical men in the General Assembly. He is not hiding behind the shield of evasive silence on this important question. Hear what he says:

"I am earnestly opposed to the constitutional amendment which proposes to extend the session of the General Assembly to ninety days. In the first place, a ninety-day session would mean the loss of the services of some of the most valuable men in the Legislature. There are busy citizens who might spare two months for service, but who could not see their way clear to giving up three months. It will tend to the dissipation among useful and capable men, to serving in the law-making body. I do not believe it will facilitate public business or tend to a more careful study of proposed legislation. No matter how long the session, there would, I believe, be the same tendency to postpone everything to the last week. There would be the same rush at the end."

If there is any man in Virginia better qualified to speak on this proposed change than Mr. Bowman, we confess that we do not know who that man is. His long service in the General Assembly entitles his opinion to be received with much weight; and it is with an eye to the past as well as to the future that Mr. Bowman speaks. He knows the ins and outs of legislation, knows the legislative temper and the legislative mood, and experience has doubtless taught him that it is almost an axiom with legislative bodies to do the heavy part of the work in the last days of the session. This is a characteristic of all legislatures, and a ninety-day session would simply serve to accentuate this common defect of all such bodies.

As Mr. Bowman says, there are busy citizens who can afford to stay away from home two months, but not three months. Those who now find it possible to stay through the session without

twice would, in a longer session, probably have to be going back and forth much more, for three months is a long time to be away from business and from home.

There is no practical reason for a ninety-day session. It is certain that the people look upon such an innovation as a useless expense and an additional burden upon them, and we hope they will so register their will at the polls in November.

It cost \$17,593.13 to nominate Hoke Smith for Governor of Georgia, of this amount Mr. Smith's friends put up \$7,097.47, and the rest of it came out of his own pocket. The salary of the Governor of Georgia is \$5,000 the year, and the term of office two years, so that Hoke has spent more to get the office by \$10,495.66 than he will receive in the way of salary. With a few delicate suits against the corporations, however, between now and the date of his inauguration, he ought to take in enough to make things comparatively easy at the Executive Mansion during his incumbency. "Little Joe" Brown spent \$3,950.75, and was defeated. He has probably lived well within his income while Governor. Why the boys didn't pluck Hoke a little cleaner we cannot understand.

The New York Evening Post announces in its advertising columns that "a few copies" of the Post of August 26, "containing the editorial entitled 'Modest Mr. Roosevelt' can still be obtained on application to the business office—price three cents per copy." It ought really to be printed and widely distributed as a campaign document, and at the next session of Congress some member of that body should ask permission to incorporate it as a part of his speech on the state of the Union or any other subject of National importance. The great American people will never be able to get a better likeness of the Colonel than this masterpiece.

Former Governor Odell, of New York, has made a formal statement that "under no circumstances will I interest myself, directly or indirectly, in local or State politics except as a loyal Republican in contributing my mite toward Republican victory this fall." So it appears that Dr. Abbott has really put Odell out of business, as the New York Evening Sun predicted he would. That Outlook outfit appears to be irresistible.

Even the Master sat with publicans and sinners; but that was a long time ago.

Boss Cox, of Cincinnati, will hereafter always have his picture "took" with a halo. The Colonel settled that.

When Mr. Taft holds his protracted meeting with his Cabinet next week it would be well for him to see that Kerby is nowhere about the premises.

Francis J. Heney, the graft expert, is described by James J. Hill as a willful falsifier. It does not sound exactly like the epithet employed by the Colonel in such cases, but it means the same thing.

"Our belief," says Bailey, in the Houston Post, "is that Dr. Cook, disguised as an African, is now running the elevator in the office of the Richmond Times-Dispatch." This is only an effort on Bailey's part, however, to conceal the deception he has been practicing all along, it having been found out that Dr. Cook really managed the taking of the recent census of Houston, which fact possibly accounts for the increase of 78 per cent. in the alleged population of that place.

If a man's wife is "not daffy on bridge, his daughter on feathers and his son on poker," Bailey thinks that "he will be able to get along very well if he doesn't own an automobile."

Can any of the women who have come back home from the Springs tell us what the limit will be this season on the little social games that are to be played?

According to the Atlanta Constitution, 250,000 pounds of sweet potatoes are to be canned at once by a concern in Americus, Georgia. Doubtless the potatoes are very good, even if they are not of the Virginia variety; but this industry does not promise well for next year at the summer resorts up North. In this part of the country, we prefer fresh vegetables, even if we do not always get them.

It was Sir Walter Raleigh who wrote more than two hundred years ago: "The shallow murmur, but the deep are dumb." This did not mean Roosevelt and Taft, because such men had not then been heard of in the evolution of the world; but it is aptly descriptive of them and their methods.

They wouldn't let "Old Joe" say anything at the Hamilton Club dinner in Chicago last week. The Colonel did not want to hear him.

Now that Patterson has retired, what will "Fiddling Doh" Taylor do to get back after his recent declaration for Patterson?

It is hoped that Bailey will not claim now that he advised Patterson to get out when he was on his recent visitation to the Volunteer State.

Daily Queries and Answers

Address all communications for this column to Query Editor, Times-Dispatch. No mathematical problems will be solved, no coins or stamps valued and no dealers' names will be given.

The Miller School.

Will you please give me some information regarding the Miller School of Virginia—the county it is situated in, who are eligible, curriculum, etc.—or inform me to whom to apply for this information? SCHOLASTIC.

This school is in Albemarle county. None but orphan boys resident in Albemarle county are eligible. Its curriculum relates to the manual arts. Write to Miller's School for information. The post-office is Miller's School, Va.

Pronunciation of "Suffragette," etc.—To settle a controversy, will you kindly advise through the medium of your Query column the correct pronunciation of the word "suffragette," whether "suffragette" or "suffragette." The letter "g" is hard in the former case or soft in both instances, and very much obliged? The letter "g" is soft, like "J" in "Just."

Baby Show at State Fair.

I have heard that there was to be a baby show at the State Fair. Will you please let me know where I shall inquire for information on this subject? MOTHER.

There is to be such a show at the

fair. Write to the Virginia State Fair Association, Mutual Building, Richmond.

Coin Values.

Please state in your Query Column if there is any value on a one-cent piece of 1825, and has John Vignee stamped across face having 16 or 17 any value on a one-cent piece made in 1796. R. J. BELLAMY.

Please note that we do not answer questions of this sort in this column.

Patriotic Song for Children.—Can you tell me the name of the following patriotic song for children, and where I can get it? I only know a few lines: "Tap, tap, the drum; marching together, Hearts lightly beating, with step firm and true, We're bearing the banner of red, white and blue."

I heard some little children singing it, but they only knew a few lines, and could give no information. We cannot find this song in our collection, but perhaps some reader will send it to us.

LORD KILMARNOCK HAS ROYAL BLOOD

BY LA MARQUE DE FOTENVOY

LORD KILMARNOCK, whose peering during a royal shooting party at Balmoral the other day, has been the subject of so much comment in print and in American newspapers, is not only a member of the royal family, but a member of the royal family of Scotland, but has also royal blood in his veins. The seventeenth century Lord Kilmarnock, who married Lady Elizabeth, daughter of King William IV, and of the actress, Mrs. Jordan, and thus became son-in-law of that most eccentric sovereign, George III, was the father of the present Duke of Fife, the husband of King George's eldest sister.

Lord Kilmarnock is in the diplomatic service, and has been recently Secretary of Legation at Stockholm, and has achieved some fame as a playwright, a considerable actor, and a successful play actor. He is also an excellent amateur actor, and has been guilty of some of the most successful of his kind. He is said to regret. He is good looking, with the dark hair and low forehead which ever and anon show themselves in the hair, and the high cheekbones of his forebears, to which Dr. Johnson bore tribute when he described the Lord Kilmarnock of his day as "of the most graceful form, and of the most elegant, polished and popular manners," and is married to the very pretty daughter of Sir Allan Mackenzie, of Glenelg, Aberdeenshire, who is a near neighbor of King George at Balmoral, and whose own father, Sir James, the first baronet, amassed a very large fortune in India, and was one of the principal financial backers, and used to be known among the then fair aristocracy, as the "King of the Bankers." Sir James' grandchild, Lord Kilmarnock, has been more extensively than his son and successor, Sir Allan, under the influence of his father's wealth, and that is why young Lord Kilmarnock brought to her husband a quite large fortune on her marriage.

Lord Kilmarnock, on his father's death, will inherit the office of Lord High Constable of Scotland, which has been hereditary in his family ever since it was bestowed by King Robert Bruce, in 1306, on his devoted cousin, King David II, who was killed at the battle of Bannockburn. The office invests Lord Kilmarnock's father, the actual occupant, the nineteenth century Lord Kilmarnock, with the honor of every peer and dignity of the kingdom of Scotland who does not happen to be a prince of the blood. He likewise holds the office of Lord High Constable of Scotland, the right of reigning covered in the King's presence, and Sir Walter Scott relates how this right was exercised by the Duke of Argyll, Lord Eroll, at the coronation of George III.

This Earl was son of that Lord Kilmarnock who had been executed as a traitor on Tower Hill over sixteen years previously, and the knowledge of the fact, together with many other emotions easily guessed at, caused the Earl to feel so much about the coronation of his father, that he was going on around him. When the King entered the great hall at Westminster for the coronation feast, every one doffed his hat to Lord Eroll, who stood absent staring right in the King's face. Seized by officials rushed towards him, apparently ignorant of his position, and he had exercised, not intentionally, but through absence of mind. But the young King, with a quickness which he has not lost, and turning to the Earl, begged him to remain covered, as he was perfectly aware of the prerogatives of the Duke of Argyll, and added that he regarded Lord Eroll's presence in that position as a compliment to himself, and a particular compliment to himself, and he begged him to kiss Walpole. Describes this Lord Eroll as "the noblest figure I ever saw."

The present Lord Eroll, who is the twenty-third hereditary Lord High Constable, is one of the very few members of the British peerage who can boast of having been born on this side of the Atlantic, having come into the world at Kingston, Canada West. He is a devoted sportsman, and a good deal of distinction through the war in South Africa, has commanded the Royal Horse Guards, also a cavalry regiment, and has been a member of the House of Commons, and is the head of the historic house of Hay, of which two junior branches are headed by the Marquis of Tweeddale and by the Earl of Kilmoun.

According to some, the Hays are a branch of Norman de la Hays, who came over to England in the time of the Conquest, and drifted north to Scotland. But the most popular belief is that which is commemorated in the heraldic device of the house, and in the family motto, "Serva Jugum," which may be interpreted as "Preserve the Yoke." The story goes that a noble battle of Lonsdale against a Dane, a stout yeoman farmer performed prodigies of valor with the yoke of his plow for his sole weapon, turning defeat into victory, and receiving in recognition thereof, lands and knight-hood from his grateful sovereign, as well as authority to use as supporters of his new armorial bearings a couple of yeomen, each armed with a yoke. Lord Eroll makes his principal home at Salinas, which is situated on the edge of a precipitous cliff, overlooking the North German Sea, has been the home of the Hays of Eroll for many generations. 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